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Safire column unfairly attacks CIA's Turner

To the Denver Post:

WILLIAM SAFIRE'S column, "A Strawberry Hunt in the CIA" published in your newspaper April 24 deserves critical analysis and review by all serious readers.

The column excoriates Stansfield Turner, director of Central Intelligence and director of the CIA. Mr. Safire clearly does not like Mr. Turner. Even the most casual reader will get that point. Not clear are the specific reasons for Mr. Safire's venom. Not one charge of any substance is made much less substantiated nor even argued.

National debate on the role and effectiveness of our intelligence operations is very important to this nation. The Time Essay in Time magazine dated April 30 makes the point very well. Mr. Safire should suppress whatever reasons he has for personal vituperation against Mr. Turner and enlighten us with constructive suggestions regarding national intelligence operations, if indeed he has any.

At the personal level, Mr. Safire's attack was unfair and, I believe, below standards of common decency. I have been privileged to know Stan Turner for a number of years. He is not as described. He is a man of great talent, energy, decency and rectitude. It is really bad when such yellow journalism can and will go largely unchallenged in our society.

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